Listing of the Claims:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method to provide information to multiple data storage devices, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer comprising memory;

providing a first ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system and a second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system, wherein said first ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system is capable of communicating with said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system;

generating said first information by said computer

saving said first information in said memory;

providing a least recently used protocol;

determining using said least recently used protocol if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media;

operative if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media, providing first information to said ~~first data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system ~~at a first time~~;

determining if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system;

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operative if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, generating a write command comprising a synchronous copy attribute;

operative if said first information need not be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, generating a write command comprising an asynchronous copy attribute.

~~providing second information to said first data storage device;~~

~~determining if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute;~~

~~operative if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute, synchronously providing said first information to said second data storage device;~~

~~operative if said second information does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, providing said first information to said second data storage device at a second time, wherein said second time is later than said first time~~.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~second information~~ write command comprises a synchronous copy attribute, ~~and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium, and wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium,~~ further comprising the following steps:

writing said first information to said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

writing said first information to said second ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

~~determining if said first information has been written to both said first information~~

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~~storage medium and to said second information storage medium;~~

~~operative if said first information has been written to both said first information storage medium and to said second information storage medium~~, generating ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said first information is provided to said first data ~~storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system by a host computer, ~~and wherein said third information comprises a write complete signal,~~ further comprising the step of providing said write complete signal to said host computer.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~second information~~ write command does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium, further comprising the following steps:

writing said first information to said first information storage medium;

determining if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium;

operative if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium, generating ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

5. Canceled.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 4, ~~wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium,~~ further comprising the steps of:

scheduling the transmission of said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system;

providing said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and

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retrieval system;

writing said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system.

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a processor, a memory, a least recently used protocol, and computer ~~useable~~ readable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein to provide information from a first ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system to a second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program instructions which cause said processor to carry out a process comprising the steps of ~~steps to effect~~:

generating said first information

saving said first information in said memory;

determining using said least recently used protocol if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media;

operative if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media, providing first information to said ~~first data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system at a first time;

determining if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second

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data storage and retrieval system;

operative if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, generating a write command comprising a synchronous copy attribute;

operative if said first information need not be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, generating a write command comprising an asynchronous copy attribute.

~~receiving second information;~~

~~determining if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute;~~

~~operative if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute, synchronously providing said first information to said second data storage device;~~

~~operative if said second information does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, providing said first information to said second data storage device at a second time, wherein said second time is later than said first time~~.

12. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said ~~second information~~ write command comprises a synchronous copy attribute, ~~and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium, and wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium,~~ said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program ~~steps to effect~~ instructions which cause said processor to carry out a process comprising the steps of:

writing said first information to said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

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writing said first information to said second ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

~~determining if said first information has been written to both said first information storage medium and to said second information storage medium;~~

~~operative if said first information has been written to both said first information storage medium and to said second information storage medium~~, generating ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

13. Canceled.

14. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said ~~second information~~ write command does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, ~~and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium~~, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program ~~steps to effect~~ instructions which cause said processor to carry out a process comprising the steps of:

writing said first information to said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

~~determining if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium;~~

operative if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium, generating ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

15. Canceled.

16. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim ~~15~~ 14, ~~wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium,~~ said computer

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readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program ~~steps to effect~~ instructions which cause said processor to carry out a process comprising the steps of:

scheduling the transmission of said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system;

providing said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system;

writing said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. Canceled.

20. (currently amended) A computer program product usable with a usable with a programmable computer processor, said product comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein to provide information from a first data storage device to a second data storage device, said computer readable code comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to save said first information in a memory;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine using a least recently used protocol if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media;

computer readable program code which, if said first information should be written to one or more information storage media, causes said programmable computer processor to

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provide said first information to said data storage and retrieval system;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determining if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system;

computer readable program code which, if said first information must be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, causes said programmable computer processor to generate a write command comprising a synchronous copy attribute;

computer readable program code which, f said first information need not be synchronously provided to said second data storage and retrieval system, causes said programmable computer processor to generate a write command comprising an asynchronous copy attribute.

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive first information at a first time;~~

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive second information at said first time;~~

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute;~~

~~computer readable program code which, if said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute, causes said programmable computer processor to synchronously provide said first information to a second data storage device;~~

~~computer readable program code which, if said second information does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, causes said programmable computer processor to provide said first~~

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~~information to a second data storage device at a second time, wherein said second time is later than said first time.~~

21. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 20, ~~wherein said second information comprises a synchronous copy attribute, and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium, and wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium,~~ further comprising:

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to write said first information to said first information storage medium;~~

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to write said first information to said second information storage medium;~~

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said first information has been written to both said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system and to said second ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

computer readable program code which, if said first information has been written to both said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system and to said second ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system, causes said programmable computer processor to generate ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

22. Canceled.

23. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein said ~~second information~~ write command does not comprise a synchronous copy attribute, ~~and wherein said first data storage device comprises a first information storage medium~~, further

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comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to write said first ~~information storage medium~~ data storage and retrieval system;

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium;~~

computer readable program code which~~, if said first information has been written to said first information storage medium,~~ causes said programmable computer processor to generate ~~third information~~ a write complete signal.

24. Canceled.

25. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 24, ~~wherein said second data storage device comprises a second information storage medium~~, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to schedule the transmission of said first information to said second ~~data storage device~~ data storage and retrieval system;

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to provide said first information to said second data storage device;~~

~~computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to write said first information to said second information storage medium~~.

26. Canceled.

27. Canceled.

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28. Canceled.

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